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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. This report deals with the training in atomic defense given to the 2d Co of the 735th Sep Radio Communication Bn stationed in Baden (N 48-01, E 16-14), Austria. The training was always considered and called Chemical Warfare Training, (Khimicheskaya Podgotovka), although the subject matter dealt with the results of and protection from nuclear explosions.

2. Training in this subject was first given some-time in January 1954 and was continuing

The training consisted of three phases: classroom instruction, practical outdoor demonstrations, and posters located on the walls of the classroom and the len-komnata (Lenin room), a room found in every company of the Soviet Army and used for political indoctrination purposes.

Classroom Instruction¹

3. One-hour-indoor lectures on chemical warfare defense were given to the 2d Co by company officers approximately two or three times each week. From January 1954 about four of these lectures were on atomic defense measures.

a. Text used in atomic defense training - The company officers used a yellow covered book with an unknown title as a basis for all their instruction. It contained about 175 pages and measured about 12 x 15 centimeters.

platoon leader took the book and carried it around the class to show an

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50X1 illustration depicting how a "Radiation De-activation Point"²
 50X1 (Dezaktivatsionnyy Punkt) would be set up to "remove radiation"³
 from supplies, equipment, and personnel. Such a point, according
 to the officer instructing the class, would be manned by a bat-
 talion or regiment specially equipped for this mission, in the event
 of an atomic war. [redacted] platoon leader devoted the entire
 hour to this subject. (For [redacted] sketch of the il-
 lustration from the book see Enclosure).⁵

50X1 b. Descriptions of atomic explosions - During another session of
 50X1 classroom instruction, when this same book was being used, the
 50X1 officer instructor described atomic explosions and their results,
 50X1 such as the heat blast, shock waves, and radiation of nuclear
 elements involved in the explosion, [redacted] unable to remember
 the figures given. [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] the "safe" distances described by the officers
 50X1 sounded dangerously close. [redacted] the gas
 50X1 mask, protective stockings, and the anti-gas protective cape
 50X1 were described as sufficient means of protection against heat
 burns during an atomic explosion. ⁴

c. Individual and unit defenses - The remaining two sessions of
 classroom instruction on atomic defense measures conducted by
 company officers were devoted largely to other personal and
 small unit defense measures. The men were told that the best
 shield against radiation was lead but that certain unknown thick-
 nesses of water, concrete, or dirt were also effective shields.
 They were told that armor plate, such as that used by tanks and
 SP guns, would stop an enormous amount of radiation the first time
 exposed. However, it would then become "soft" and offer no pro-
 tection during a second exposure to radiation (sic). The
 officer instructor also mentioned that in the event of atomic
 warfare, the 2d Co, 735th Sep Rad Commo Bn would be expected
 to dig in their radio trucks completely. As these were ZIS-151
 van-type trucks, the men asked the instructor how this monumental
 task would be accomplished. They were told that it was believed
 by the battalion CO that an engineer unit of unknown size would
 be attached to the unit for this purpose. However, the instruc-
 tor continued, if such assistance did not materialize, each
 vehicle had three shovels and the crew of each truck would do
 their own digging even though the job would require several days.

50X1 d. Miscellaneous - Other items [redacted] from this
 book as they were presented in lectures were as follows:

(1) Atomic weapons were in the form of aerial bombs, torpedoes
 launched from ships, and artillery shells of unknown
 caliber. These means were discussed as being the ways in
 which atomic devices could be theoretically delivered.
 There was no detailed discussion as to what powers had
 which weapons except that the platoon commander stated
 that whatever weapons anyone else had, "the Soviet Union
 had better ones".

(2) If a soldier was caught in the open during an atomic
 explosion, he was to fall flat, face down and feet in the
 direction of the explosion. He was then to don his gas
 mask, protective stockings, and anti-gas cape.

50X1 (3) If a soldier was wounded in a contaminated area, he must
 not smoke, drink, or eat. It was best not to move until
 help arrived. At no time was any first aid instruction
 given [redacted]

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- (4) Running water was the best material for removing "radiation" from equipment or from the human body (sic).
- (5) After an atomic explosion, it was the duty of every Soviet soldier to continue with his designated mission until it was satisfactorily completed before taking any measures to determine whether or not he had absorbed a fatal amount of "roentgens".

4. Demonstrations and Exercises

- a. In company area - Practical demonstrations were presented only once [redacted] they were conducted by an unknown signal major from CGF Hqs. This demonstration was set up in [redacted] company area and involved a discussion by the major on the proper method of removing "radiation" from food, communication equipment, weapons, and vehicles. Before the demonstration the major asked different soldiers of the company various questions. The major asked [redacted] how he would go about removing "radiation" from a vehicle. [redacted] replied that he would take a cloth soaked in a "special" solution and wipe off the entire vehicle. The major said that that was correct, but that plain water would have to do in the event this "special" solution was not available. [redacted]
- [redacted] the major never clarified what such a solution consisted of. The demonstration itself consisted of blowing out theoretically radioactive dirt and dust from radios and telephones with compressed air, washing contaminated food and equipment which would not be harmed by water washing, scraping off the top layers of such foods as butter, and washing down with a wet rag such portions of a "hot" vehicle as the steering wheel, the door handle, the seat, the gear shift knob and other parts that would be touched by the driver. All these actions were demonstrated by unit NCOs wearing standard gas masks and dressed in protective stockings, gloves, and anti-gas capes. The major then stated that these were emergency measures only and that a thorough hosing down with water was mandatory at the first opportunity.
- b. On route march - During January 1954, the Co CO declared "an atomic alert" when the 2d Co was practicing a motor march. At this, all vehicles stopped and everyone put on his gas mask. After the gas masks were donned, the column continued and upon approaching a sharp turn in the road near the garrison, found themselves in a cloud of heavy, yellow smoke. The battalion chief of staff had planted a smoke pot in the middle of the road to simulate an atomic explosion. The result of this smoke was disastrous because the drivers, in their gas masks, could not see the turn. The first vehicle missed the turn, went off the road, and turned over. The next five vehicles followed the same way and a six truck smash-up ensued. One NCO in the first truck was badly hurt, and all the vehicles required extensive repairs. The chief of staff of the battalion was not punished or reprimanded to source's knowledge.

Pictorial Displays

5. In the 2d Co len-komnata and in the classroom, 12 posters were put up in January 1954, each of which depicted some lesson in atomic defense. [redacted] these posters were an item of standard issue, not home made. [redacted]

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a. One poster was in three sections. Section one showed a soldier face down in a ditch. Next to him was a tree and a house, and in the background there was a ball of flame representing the beginning of an atomic explosion. In section two, the burst was larger and the house and tree were beginning to burn. The soldier was still face down with feet toward the explosion. In section three, the burst was now a mushroom-shaped cloud of smoke, the tree and house were wrapped in flames, and the soldier, wearing a gas mask, was walking in the direction of the mushroom-shaped cloud.

50X1 b. Another poster showed a soldier holding an instrument shaped
50X1 like a small black box in his hand, with a strap from the box
50X1 around his neck. The title of the poster was a short, foreign
50X1 (non-Russian) title which [redacted]
50X1 was the name of the instrument. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] the instrument measured the amount of radioactivity in an
50X1 area and recorded it in "roentgens" on a needle dial. In the
50X1 lower-right-hand corner was [redacted] a life-
50X1 size drawing of the instrument. (For [redacted] sketch of
this instrument see page 5.)

50X1 c. Other posters showed a soldier washing in a tub, drawings of
50X1 various trenches, a soldier washing himself and his clothes in
50X1 a river, and a truck being washed with hoses by two soldiers in
50X1 gas masks. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] there were no written instructions
50X1 accompanying these posters. [redacted] they did not
50X1 receive any verbal instructions accompanying the posters. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]

Enclosure: [redacted] Sketch of an Illustration from an U/I
Atomic Training Manual Depicting a Radiation Decontamination Point.

- 50X1 1. [redacted] Comment: While at least six [redacted]
50X1 have reported individual defense training measures against
50X1 atomic attack within the past year, this is the first [redacted]
50X1 who has reported in detail in a class giving instruction
on proposed unit decontamination methods. [redacted]
50X1 [redacted] reported that much of their training was
based on the Sergeants' and Soldiers' Handbook on Atomic
Defense, which they stated was widely distributed throughout
their units [redacted]
50X1 [redacted]
- 50X1 2. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] spelling of "dezaktiva-
50X1 tziionnyy". One spelling, "Dezavaktsionnyy" does not resemble
anything known locally.

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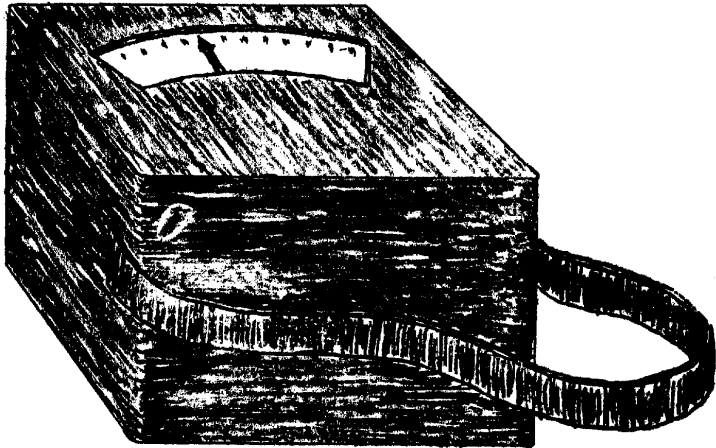


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Sketch of a Hand-Held-Radioactivity Indicator as Illustrated on a Poster
That Was Located in the 2d Company, 735th Sep Rad Commo Bn Classroom

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Scale: 1:2 $\frac{1}{2}$  the poster showed the item drawn to full scale.)



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